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Abstract of the Disclosure

5 A network server is adapted to connect on the network with Internet
appliances, and to fully configure such appliances over a network
connection to access and operate on the Internet. In a preferred embodiment
the appliances have first control routines adapted to cooperate with second
routines at the server, and also a network address for connection. An
initiation signal by a user at a network-connected appliance launches the
10 first routines, causing the appliance to invoke the network address and to
establish network communication with the server and to initiate
configuration interaction. In some cases special telephone numbers are
provided with new appliances, and the dial-up server, through Destination
Number Information Service (DNIS) uses the dial-up number in conjunction
15 with a data repository to select appropriate software for interfacing with and
configuring a connecting appliance. A full range of services may be
provided, including value-added services, such as browsers and browser
configuration.

00475871-10400